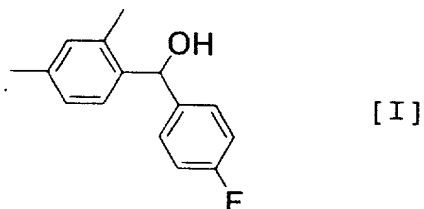
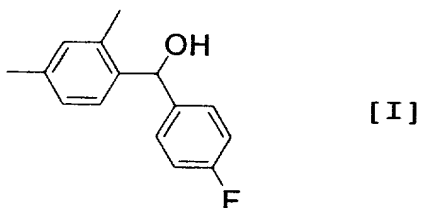


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A compound of the formula [I]

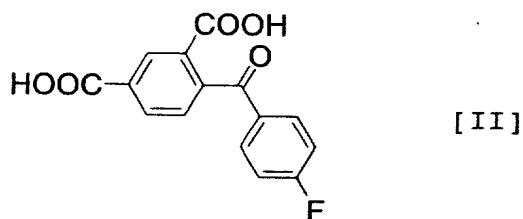


2. A production method of a compound of the formula [I]

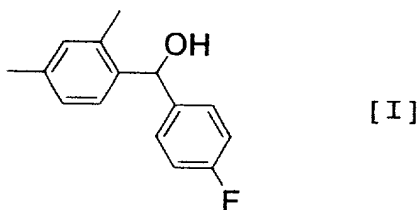


which comprises converting 4-bromofluorobenzene to 4-fluorophenylmagnesium bromide, and reacting the 4-fluorophenylmagnesium bromide with 2,4-dimethylbenzaldehyde.

3. A production method of a compound of the formula [II]



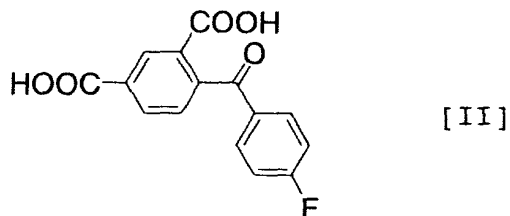
which comprises oxidizing a compound of the formula [I]



4. A production method of 1,3-dimethyl-4-(4'-fluorobenzoyl)benzene, which comprises subjecting m-xylene as a starting material and solvent to Friedel-Crafts reaction with 4-

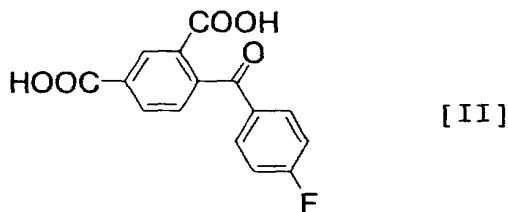
fluorobenzoyl halide.

5. A production method of a compound of the formula [II]



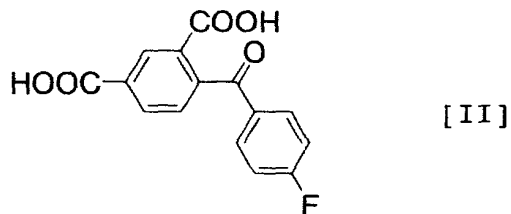
5 which comprises subjecting m-xylene as a starting material and solvent to Friedel-Crafts reaction with 4-fluorobenzoyl halide to give 1,3-dimethyl-4-(4'-fluorobenzoyl)benzene and oxidizing said 1,3-dimethyl-4-(4'-fluorobenzoyl)benzene.

10 6. A production method of a compound of the formula [II]



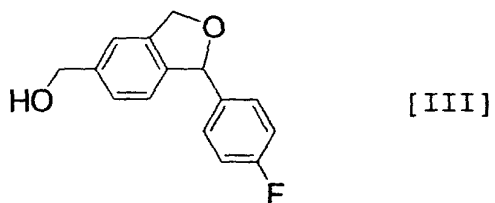
15 which comprises subjecting 2,4-dimethylbenzoyl halide to Friedel-Crafts reaction with fluorobenzene to give 1,3-dimethyl-4-(4'-fluorobenzoyl)benzene and oxidizing said 1,3-dimethyl-4-(4'-fluorobenzoyl)benzene.

7. A production method of a compound of the formula [II]

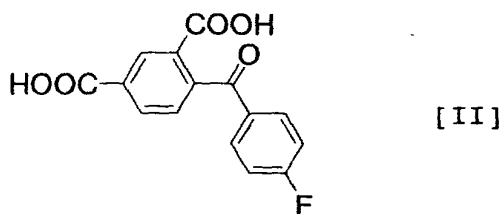


20 which comprises subjecting trimellitic anhydride to Friedel-Crafts reaction with fluorobenzene in a dichloro-substituted or trichloro-substituted benzene solvent.

8. A production method of a compound of the formula [III]

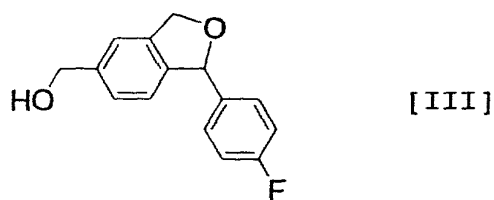


which comprises subjecting a compound of the formula [II]

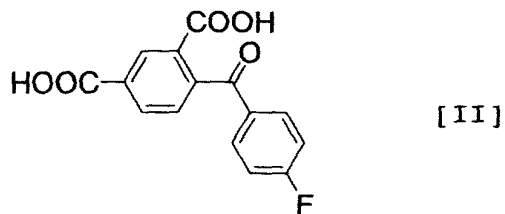


to reduction and cyclization.

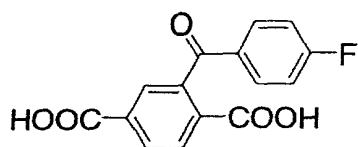
9. A production method of a compound of the formula [III]



which comprises subjecting trimellitic anhydride to Friedel-Crafts reaction with fluorobenzene to give a mixture of a compound of the formula [II]



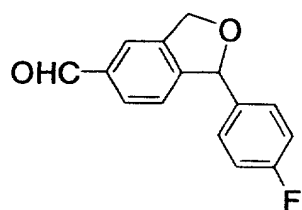
and a compound of the formula [IV]



[IV]

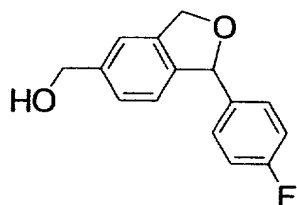
which is an isomer thereof, subjecting the mixture to reduction and cyclization, and isolating the resulting compound.

- 5 10. The production method of Claim 9, wherein the reaction solvent is dichloro-substituted or trichloro-substituted benzene.
- 10 11. The production method of Claim 9 or Claim 10, wherein the reduction is carried out using sodium borohydride.
- 10 12. The production method of Claim 9 or Claim 10, further comprising the use of a Lewis acid or dialkyl sulfate as a catalyst for the reduction.
- 15 13. The production method of Claim 12, wherein the catalyst is sulfuric acid, dimethyl sulfate, diethyl sulfate or boron trifluoride.
- 20 14. The production method of Claim 9 or Claim 10, wherein the cyclization is carried out using an acid catalyst.
- 15 15. The production method of Claim 14, wherein the acid catalyst is an inorganic acid.
- 25 16. The production method of Claim 15, wherein the inorganic acid is hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid or phosphoric acid.
17. A production method of a compound of the formula [V]



[V]

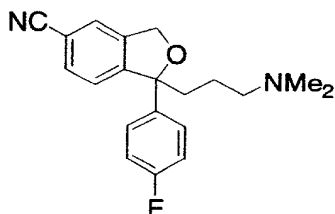
which comprises oxidizing a compound of the formula [III]



[III]

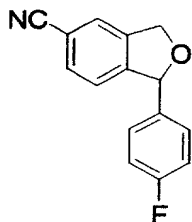
with manganese dioxide.

18. A production method of citalopram represented by the formula [A]



[A]

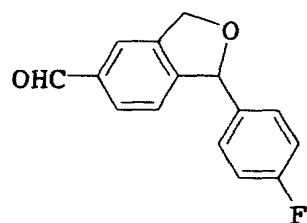
which comprises reacting a compound of the formula [VI]



[VI]

with 3-(dimethylamino)propyl chloride in the presence of a condensing agent and at least one member selected from N,N,N',N'-tetramethylethylenediamine and 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone.

19. The production method of Claim 18, wherein the compound of the formula [VI] is obtained by subjecting a compound of the formula [V]



[V]

successively to oximation and dehydration reaction.

- 5 20. The production method of Claim 18 or Claim 19, wherein the condensing agent is sodium hydride.